

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5897

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EG US

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE

REF: STATE 57363

1. RADM MCCAULEY AND HIS PARTY, DCM AND DATT MET WITH EGYPTIAN CNO VICE ADMIRAL ZIKRI, DIRECTOR SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY MASHHOUR AND REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPTIAN ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE ON MARCH 25. MCCAULEY OUTLINED SUBSTANCE OF BASIC PLAN OF OPERATION AS CONTAINED REFTEL. HE PRESENTED LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS. AMONG THESE WERE LANDING RIGHTS FOR C-5'S AND C-141'S IN CAIRO AND FOR C-130'S IN ISMAILIA, AS WELL AS CLEARANCE FOR OPERATIONS OF HELOS IN CANAL AREA. HE POINTED OUT NEED FOR LARGE NUMBER OF TRUCKS AND DRIVERS TO HAUL SUBSTANTIAL C-5 LOADS FROM CAIRO TO CANAL AREA, AS WELL AS NEED FOR FUEL FOR AIRCRAFT/HELOS IN CANAL AREA AND CAIRO.

2. MCCAULEY POINTED OUT NEED FOR SOME SORT OF STATUS OF FORCES ARRANGEMENT TO COVER ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF HIS COMMAND WHILE IN EGYPT. HE ALSO INDICATED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ENABLE US MILITARY WORKING IN CANAL AREA TO ENTER COUNTRY USING ID CARDS.

3. EGYPTIAN SIDE TOOK NOTE OF ABOVE CITED AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS
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AND DECLARED THEIR READINESS TO BE HELPFUL IN EVERY

WAY POSSIBLE. THEY SAID SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY WOULD PROVIDE BILLETING FACILITIES IN CANAL AREA. ARMY WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TRANSPORT AND DRIVERS FROM CAIRO TO CANAL. STORAGE SPACE WOULD BE PROVIDED AT CAIRO AIRPORT. LANDING RIGHTS AND AIR CORRIDORS FOR AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN CANAL AREA AND TO CAIRO WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

4. DISCUSSION THROUGHOUT WAS VERY CORDIAL. IT WAS CLEAR THAT EGYPTIANS WERE PLEASED TO HAVE ADMIRAL MCCAULEY AND HIS PARTY IN EGYPT AND THAT THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE.

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